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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /063 W
---------- 026040
R 241305Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, IS, DA
SUBJECT: ISRAELI AMBASSADORS' WIVES DO NOT GET THE BUSINESS*

1. ISRAELI DCM (TABORI) CONFIRMED TO DCM JUNE 23 A RECENT PRESS REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR MOSHE LESHEM WOULD LIKELY LEAVE COPENHAGEN THIS YEAR, AYEAR AHEAD OF TIME, BECAUSE HIS WIFE HAD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A DANISH FREIND, OPENED A BEAUTY PARLOR ON COPENHAGEN'S MAIN SHOPPING STREET. THE BEAUTY PARLOR, WHICH OPENED THIS SPRINGS, HAS BEEN PATRONIZED, AMONG OTHERS, BY MEMBERS OF THE COURT AND WIVES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. TABORI EXPLAINED THAT ISRAELI REGULATIONS PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT FOR GAIN BY DIPLOMATS' WIVES AND THAT, KNOWING THIS, LESHEM HAD NOT EVEN ASKED JERUSALEM WHETHER HIS WIFE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO OPEN A BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT. THE REPUTABLE BERLINGSKE TIDENDE SAID JUNE 20 THAT MRS. LESHEM'S POSITION HAS CAUSED "VIOLENT DISCUSSION" IN JERUSALEM, WITH THE PROS AND ANTIS GENERALLY DIVIDED BY AGE. THE PAPER ALSO NOTED THAT MOST DANES BELIEVE THAT THE WIFE OF A DIPLOMAT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRAINED FROM PURSUING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE TRADITIONAL CHARITABLE FIELD.

2. MRS. LESHEM HERSELF TOLD POLITIKEN JUNE 23: "THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY IS GROSSLY DISCRIMINATORY....THAT HAS MADE ME VERY BITTER. WIVES OF MANY OF THE OTHER
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AMBASSADORS IN COPENHAGEN HAVE CONGRATULATED ME.

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"IF ONLY WE DARED, IF ONLY WE HAD THE SAME COURAGE AS YOU."

3. COMMENT: THE LESHEMS HAVE BEEN A POPULAR COUPLE HERE WHO HAVE CARRIED OUT THEIR DUTIES WITH CONSIDERABLE DIGNITY AND ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAEL. COMMENT HAD BEEN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THEM AND CRITICAL OF THE RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE OF THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY, WITH ONE PAPER ASKING WHETHER THIS WAS "ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN."
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Message Attributes

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